

said it would be unfair to do it so close to an election."

That is not true. It never happened. President Lincoln never said that nor did he do that. The Washington Post already debunked this disinformation when another Democratic Senator tried to spread it.

Now the Democratic leader is claiming Chairman GRAHAM did something unprecedented in committee this morning. That would be news to Senator LEAHY, who had a Democratic majority vote multiple judges to the floor in 2014 when there were not two Republicans present. Chairmen of both parties have done the same thing multiple times.

The Democratic leader continues to misstate what the Republicans said in 2016. Let me quote verbatim from my very first floor speech after Justice Scalia passed away. Here is what I said: "The Senate has not filled a vacancy arising in an election year when there was divided government since 1888." That is what we had then, a divided government—a Republican Senate and a Democratic President. Now, my friend the Democratic leader may be emotionally invested in this idea that I said something else, but that is, in fact, what I said. Historical precedent supported no confirmation in 2016, and it supports confirming Judge Barrett now.

Look, everybody knows what is going on here. We know why the Democratic leader feels this need to keep saying things that aren't true. Our colleague is trying to invent a justification to declare war on judicial independence and pack the Supreme Court if the Democrats should win power. That is what this is all about.

Back in March, he walked across the street and threatened Justices by name if they ruled against his wishes, and now, even though this Court ended up delighting the political left with several decisions this very year, he still wants an excuse to pack the Court.

The American people know what a terrible idea this is. Polls show majority support for confirming Judge Barrett and overwhelming opposition to court-packing. The American people are glad that Franklin Roosevelt didn't get to blow up our independent judiciary in 1937, and they strongly oppose Democratic threats now.

The Democratic leader may support court-packing, and former Vice President Biden may call it a "live ball," but the American people know these threats are anathema to the rule of law.

This Senate majority will not let falsehoods drown out facts. We will not reward hostage-taking, and we will not be bullied out of doing what is right. We are going to follow history and precedent and do our job.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, throughout my tenure in the Senate, I have been a leader in promoting renewable energy sources, like being called the father of the wind energy tax credit. This has led to a cleaner environment and has increased America's energy independence.

It is concerning to see legislation from progressive Members of Congress that would eliminate internal combustion engine vehicles like the vast majority of us drives and depends on. In other words, we will all have to buy electric cars. This is supposed to help the environment, but, remember, most electrical generation is from fossil fuels.

There are more practical solutions available. Currently, renewable fuels can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 43 percent, but they would be totally eliminated under this extreme bill. By adding more ethanol and biodiesel to our energy mix, we can reduce emissions while still keeping transportation costs low for working families.

I ask my colleagues across the aisle to abandon this radical scheme. If they want a cleaner environment, then they should look to renewable fuels produced in our Nation's heartland.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

NOMINATION OF AMY CONEY BARRETT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, before I get into the substance of my remarks, I will briefly redress the Republican leader.

He came on the floor and, with his typical vitriol, made all kinds of accusations. The bottom line is MCCONNELL is angry. Why? Because we Democrats have exposed that he has defiled the Senate as an institution more than any person in this generation and many generations, because we Democrats have exposed the hypocrisy of holding up Merrick Garland because it was 8 months before an election and rushing through Amy Coney Barrett because it is "something we can do."

The bottom line is Leader MCCONNELL, of course, doesn't like hearing

these things, but they are the truth, and they will live on in history. The man who defiled the Senate, the man who created one of the greatest hypocritical acts in the history of the Senate, sits in that chair.

Now, the Republican majority is steering the Senate toward one of the lowest moments in its long history, and the damage it does to this Chamber may very well be irrevocable.

After thwarting the constitutional prerogative of a duly elected Democratic President to appoint a Supreme Court Justice because it was an election year, the Republican majority is rushing to confirm a Justice for a Republican President 1 week—1 week—before election day.

Four short years ago, all of our Republican friends argued that it was principle—that is the world they used, "principle"—to let the American people have a voice in the selection of a Supreme Court Justice because an election was 8 months away.

Those same Republicans are preparing to confirm a Justice with an election that is 8 days away. What a stench of hypocrisy.

In the process, the majority has trampled over every norm, rule, or standard that could possibly stand in its way. It ignored health guidelines to conduct in-person hearings in the middle of a pandemic after Republicans Members of the committee themselves had contracted COVID.

It has broken longstanding Senate precedent. Never in the history of the Senate has a Supreme Court nominee—a lifetime appointment—been considered so close to an election. The Presiding Officer of the Senate confirmed this yesterday in response to this Senator's inquiry. Never in the history of the Senate has a Supreme Court nominee been confirmed after July of an election year.

Before even we arrived at this sordid chapter, the Republican majority broke the rules of the Senate to change the rules of the Senate, lowering the number of votes required for a Supreme Court nomination so that Republicans could confirm whomever they wanted.

They changed the rules of the Senate again to limit the amount of time the Senate spends considering judicial nominations so they could pack the courts with their rightwing appointees even faster.

It is a hallmark of democracy that might does not make right, but the Republicans are blatantly ignoring this principle. Here, in Leader MCCONNELL's Senate, the majority lives by the rule of "because we can." They completely ignore the question of whether they should. Morality, principles, value, consistency are all out the window.

Here, now, we have the culmination of this Republican majority's systemic erosion of rules and norms in pursuit of raw political power: a Supreme Court nominee who will be confirmed on a party-line vote after the rules were changed to allow it, in complete contradiction to the supposed principle